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ADRIANO MOREIRA - PORTUGAL

EAST TIMOR

In the life of one same generation, the Maubere people was the victim of two aggressions endangering their survival on earth. The first one was carried out by the Japanese during the second world war and the destruction of the territory at that time was unbelievable. The second one was carried out by Indonesia and became true genocide. Whichever the causes of the invasion and whichever the local provocative responsibilities of some groups of people, none of these two facts revokes the principles laid down in the UN Charter and its statements of principles. The Government of Indonesia has, for quite a few years, made it clear that their ambition was to have the territory dominated by its colonizing power and the statement and their ambition conformed with the Charter, the statements and the practices of the UN and, simultaneously, there was a guaranteed respect for the historical, cultural, religious and linguistic identity of Mauberism which, as said by sociologist Stephane Dovert, expresses the national identity of the people of East Timor. The occupation, the destructions of the people and of things, apparently for the sake of Indonesia's security, are not covered by international law, by the UN Charter or by UN practices. It is merely occupation, adulteration of national identity and physical and cultural genocide of the population. It is also clearly a question of exploring oil in the Timor Sea and the respect (which is not morally justified) for the military and strategic importance of Indonesia in the unfortunate unstable balance we live in.

The UN cannot ignore the voice of the Catholic Church which has finally broken the silence it had been in until 1981.

It is not just the respect for the rights of minorities, since the Maubere people is considered to be a minority just because it is violently integrated in the State of Indonesia. We firmly believe that unconditional talks have to take place so that:

a) There will be a cease-fire in the territory;

b) Legality will return and the administration power (Portugal) will be able to complete self-determination;

Health and food assistance support will be given to the Maubere people;

The resistance forces will take part in the negociations;

Self-determination will be given to Timor.

The voting and the decision that the people of East Timor be given the right to self-determination correspond to the unanimous wish ot the Portuguese Parliament who has sent a delegation to your Committee. This delegation represents all the political currents which are part of it.

We have no doubts that, under the present circumstances, only an appeal heard by Indonesia will enable that right to be effective as there is no other way in which we can impose a decision on them if they do not agree to it.

However, we insist on the fact that all mistakes made in Timor on the date of the invasion and all the fears claimed by Indonesia on that date have now gone. We are here on a date when peace efforts are general and when the superpowers are committed to a change in the situation. Indonesia would be contributing excellently towards general peace by setting the example and recognizing the right to self-determination for the people of East Timor. An example which will show her power in that area and in the world as it will show that she is not afraid of the small neighbour who is claiming for justice and who will have determination without external coertion. We beg of your distinguished Committee to undertake to see to the achievement of this just peace and to the granting of self-determination to a people who has suffered too much for facts which are beyond their responsibility.

East Timor, a former Portuguese colony, already had a historical and cultural identity when she came under Portuguese political domination. And there are frequent descriptions of the Portuguese presence, bringing in new western values, specially religious ones, enriching but never perverting Mauberism which is the basis of their current nationalism.

Unfortunately for the Timor people, their small territory has always been involved in the strategic interests of that area, both at a time when the dominating powers were western and after the decolonization movement of this century. Close to

the begining of the second world war, Timor was considered to be a fundamental territory for the security of Australia. Her identity seemed to be guaranteed in spite of the merely symbolic Portuguese presence. Nevertheless, the Japanese wave of the second world war also aimed at Timor which was invaded. After three years of occupation, the Island was completely destroyed and the population was persecuted and indiscriminately killed. The everlasting souvenir of D. Aleixo dates back to that time as this local chieftain preferred to die after a long fight than to consent to have his hands tied. This sacrifice, just as that of other peoples then, was often accepted with happiness since it was a guarantee, given through the statements of the allies, that this would never happen again. No more war, no more crashing of human rights, no more physical genocide, no more cultural genocide, no more invasions by force, no more actions putting the so-called security over and above justice.

No one can claim the promises to the Maubere people and Timor since none of them were kept. None of these promises was kept towards this people which seems to have been forgotten by the Gods, by human justice, by a common hope, by the common fraternity. It seems to be for ever and hopelessly subject to oblivion and to disappearing. Portugal had the responsibilities of a colonial power in the past and undertakes those same responsibilities now as an administrating country. But this can only be done in the name of the international community and only if the international community so wishes. Our question is if it so wished and how it wants it to be.

We have come here to tell you how we believe that the responsible international community should want it.